Research Proposal

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DEPICTION OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIP IN THE NOVELS OF SOUTH ASIAN DIASPORA: A STUDY OF SELECTED WOMEN NOVELISTS

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DEPICTION OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIP IN THE NOVELS OF SOUTH ASIAN DIASPORA: A STUDY OF SELECTED WOMEN NOVELISTS

Human migration is the movement of people from one place to another for various reasons. Migration may be permanent or temporary, voluntary or involuntary. It may be within one's region, country or beyond. The communities of nation or region living outside its own country and sharing some common bonds that give them an ethnic and consequent bonding are referred to as Diaspora. Diaspora is a large group of people with a similar heritage or homeland who have since moved out to places all over the world.

Diaspora Literature is a very vast concept and an umbrella term that includes in it all those literary works written by the authors outside their native country, but these works are associated with native culture and background. In this wide context, all those writers can be regarded as diasporic writers who write outside their country but remained related to their homeland through their works. In this research activity, an attempt will be made to study the women novelists contributing to the realm of the South Asian Diaspora.

The term "South Asian Literature" refers to the literary works of writers from the Indian subcontinent and its Diaspora. Countries to which South Asian literary figures are linked to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal and also from Bhutan, Myanmar, Tibet and the Maldives.

The South Asian English literature has been getting a lot of readers across the world since the post colonial period. As the South Asian countries progressing from tradition to modernity, the South Asian English literature reveals a chain of novelists lining up one another. The South Asian English novelists are recognizing into the ranks of top English language novelists, making their way on to the best seller lists and getting a lot of share of the literary awards in the world.

At present the fictional world of Kamala Markandeya, Nayantara Sahgal, Githa Hariharan, Roma Tearne, Shashi Deshpande, Bharathi Mukhaerjee, Jai Nimbkar, Rama Metha, Shoba De, Uma Vasudev, Manju Kapur Bapsi Sidhwa, Kunzang Choden, Arundathi Roy, Anitha Desai, Meera Syal, Rosie Dastgir, Shashikala Manandhar and Sulekha Sanyal,Jumpa Lahiri and Chitra Benergee Divakaruni offer penetrative insight into the complex issues of life and analyze the world of women, woman to woman, brother and sister, mother and daughter, relationships with men and their sufferings as victims of male dominance.

The South Asian women novelists have delineated how their first generation women have traditional relationships with their family members and have subjected to exploitation, suppression and denoted their entire life within the family with silence and adjustment. As they have changed from tradition to modernity the relationship has been changed in the life of second generation and third generation women.They are ready to liberate themselves from the exploitation of patriarchal system. They revolt against their men when such circumstances are created around them. They are ready to get their self identity as they have already acquired good education, employment and so on. So they are ready to get diverse and also ready to have distinct relationships. Even young girls are ready to have pre-marital relationship by breaking conventions which were adopted by their mothers and grandmothers. Thus women in the recent novels question, analyze and try to open out the gender role, male power and various relationships that are important to all men and women.

The South Asian Diasporic novelists have reflected the theme of displacement, dislocation, sense of loss, alienation, immigration, assimilation, nostalgia, quest of identity, issues related to amalgamation or disintegration of cultures, confrontation with racism, women's issues and predicament of women in their novels in the foreign land.

As the South Asian diasporic women novelists Monica Ali, Chandani Lokuge, Taslima Nasrin, Jumpa Lahiri, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Manjushree Thapa, Bapsi Sidhwa, Yasmine Gooneratne, V. V. Ganeshanatha and Tahamima Anam are representative figures for the female predicament in diaspora and in their original belonging. They have explored how women have become isolated in foreign land. A few female characters of their novels are not subjected to any economic exploitation by the patriarchy, some of the women characters belong to diasporic communities facing cultural dilemma. In their novels the immigrant women of the first generation of diaspora are leading their life of isolation as their husbands are working, but they are not working, they are not strong enough to work, get employability themselves. So they have become home makers and mere wives and their relationships have become strained. They don't show their identity. It is also difficult for them to adjust in diaspora.

Theme of Human Relationship

The love and affection among individuals and trust towards each other is a basic phenomenon of human beings. Man and society are always interconnected to spread the value of relationship in society. Without the existence of human beings, society has no meaning. Thus, human relationship is the main juncture of the society to uphold their emotions. The human behavior of each individual portrays the different tendencies and depicts them as unique personality. Every individual is influenced by the social relationship established between man and woman. Relationships are of social, political, religious and economical bondage between man and woman. Every role of a man and woman are dignified in their nature. But if we are incapable in handling the relations then the crisis begins. It is on the emotion ground that relations will be existed for a long way; otherwise, it will be a presentation of skeleton without having flesh and blood in the body. Relationships are of different kinds both internal and external like parents, children, newly married couple of two different families etc, where as external are companions, friendship and community people. Relationship in sense of commitment, goodwill, helping the needy without any expectations, kindness, mutual trust and love among individuals depict the realism of society. Relationships are also concerned with boundaries, nationhood, nature and culture.

Scope of Research

The proposed research makes an attempt to analyze the selected novels of Monica Ali from Bangladeshi diaspora, Chandini Lokuge from SriLankan diaspora, Bharti Kirchner, Amulya Malladi from Indian diaspora. Certain efforts will also be made to examine how these writers have delineated the human relationships in their novels i.e. 'Brick Lane', 'Turtle Nest', 'Softly As I Leave You', 'If The Moon Smiled, 'Dargeeling,' 'Shiva Dancing', 'Serving Crazy with Curry', 'The Mango Season.'

The Limitations of the Research

The present research study has some limitations.

1)It deals only with women novels of the South Asian Diaspora.

2)It mainly focuses on the women sensibility, their predicament, problems and the changes found in their generation women in the South Asian Diaspora.

3)The study is limited to the selected novelists from the South Asian Diaspora.

4) The study will take only one theme in to consideration i.e. human relationship as reflected in the some of the related novelists.

Hypothesis

- It is assumed that Monica Ali, Chandani Lokuge, Bharti Kirchner and Amulya Malladi reflect the changing and intricacies of relationships between man and woman, mother and daughter, between woman and woman, love and hate relationship etc.
- It is also assumed that the situations like sexuality, dislocation, displacement, acculturation, racism, security of life in foreign land etc. have created distinct relationships and the same has been reflected through their literary contributions.

Objectives of the Study

The Objectives of the study are as follows:

- To study the theme of human relationship which is crucial in the province of modern criticism
- To study the changing relationships among men and women due to tradition and modernity.
- To study the intricacies of human relationship among men and women due to the changes in society.
- To study the establishment of old and new human relationships among men and women in the selected novels.
- To identify the causes of developing new human relationships
- To study the liberated attitude of women to create new human relationships.
- To study how the novelists have created awareness about sufferings, failure and problems by creating new human relationships.

Research Methodology

With a view to provide an objective empirical support to the present research both primary and secondary sources will be used. An attempt will be made to collect and study in order to explore the mentioned objectives. The methods of research have been critical, evaluative, analytical,

interpretive, descriptive and comparative. These methods would be employed as per the issues taken for deliberation and reference. An attempt will also be made to collect data from authors if possible. Thus library research methodology and analytical research methodology will be the most suitable approach for the proposed study.

Contribution to Literature

The present exploration of fiction with the respect of the theme of human relationship would be widely essential to comprehend the familial relationships and other relationships in the societies of home land and foreign land. Though the theme is as old as ancient; it has been widely discussed in these days. It has created interest among writers to write real relationships happened in the societies in their works. By reading such works women have got education, employment and entered in to new life styles. They have not been restricted to old traditions and not much bothered about it. Thus they have been empowered and it has created many avenues for women also. They have assimilated new culture and atmosphere. I will also see the patriarchal system has been losing its importance. We can understand how traditional relationships have been breaking due to several reasons. This theme has created some negative points like increasing rate of divorce, loneliness, alienation and so on.

Proposed Chapterization

Chapter 1: Introduction

The first chapter introduces the South Asian Diaspora and the novelists contributing to English literature. It specifically introduces the women novelists contributing to South Asian Diaspora with their various themes such as displacement, dislocation, sense of loss, alienation, immigration, assimilation, nostalgia, quest of identity, issues related to amalgamation or disintegration of cultures, confrontation with racism, issues and predicament of women in their novels in the foreign land as well as home land. The theme of human relationship has been discussed in detail.

Chapter 2: Review of Literature

This chapter, Review of literature makes an effort to take a complete review of the literature, particularly related to the genre of fictions holistically, the tense of fiction will be reviewed and special focus will be laid on the South Asian novelists. More particularly women novelists will

be given more space as far as the review is concerned. Subsequently, an effort will be made to identify the novels written by the South Asian Diasporic Writers giving scope for distinct relationships in their literary contributions.

This chapter will give a comprehensive survey of the genre of literature i.e. the South Asian novels in order to make an acceptable argument for the present study.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

The proposed research study will adopt the library methodology. The topic demands the data to be collected from various sources such as journals, conferences/seminar proceedings, reviews, interviews, articles, secondary sources and primary sources etc. The data required for justifying the theme of human relationship in the selected novels of the selected women novelists from South Asian Diaspora will be tabulated to draw the conclusions. The systematic analysis, interpretation and justification will put on effort to meet the objectives of the study. Similarly the hypothesis decided right in the beginning will also be addressed in order to make the study more relative and comprehensive.

The empirical library research methodology will be helpful in the course of the study to draw the conclusions and after suggestions for further study.

Chapter 4: Thematic Concerns of Human Relationship in South Asian Diaspora

This chapter deals with the thematic concerns of relationship as reflected in South Asian Diaspora with special references to the selected women writers mentioned below:

1. Chandani Lokuge
2. Monica Ali
3. Amulya Malladi
4. Bharti Kirchner

Chandani Lokuge

An attempt will be made to study the theme of human relationship in the selected novels of Chandani Lokuge, a novelist who hails from Sri Lanka. Chandani Lokuge's novel *Turtle Nest* is set in a fishing village in Sri Lanka and Australia. The novel is structured around Aruni's slow extraction of her mother Mala's story from Simon, a family friend who loved Mala and has

relationship with her. The central character is Mala, daughter of a Sri Lankan fisherman, living in great poverty amid great beauty. We have seen good relationship between Neela and Mohan, but that relationship has disturbed as Mohan has extra-marital relationship with Mala. They have migrated to Australia to avoid the secrecy of Mohan's illegal daughter Aruni. The novel also depicts other important character Aruni who has her early memories of Sri Lanka, and later experiences in Australia which lead her back to Sri Lanka to find out about her mother. Aruni is not happy in her life in Australia, her relationship with her parents has become strained, She also knows Neela who is not her real mother so she wants to return to Sri Lanka to find out her real mother. Aruni follows dangerous path in Sri Lanka, driven by her desire to feel she belongs with her mother's coastline people. In Sri Lanka, Aruni has pre-marital relationship with many men, finally she has been gang raped by many people. I also see how Mala's relationship with her brother, sister, mother and other persons. Lokuge has discussed life and society of Sri Lanka as well as that of Australia. She has also discussed how foreign visitors are involved in male prostitution and come to Sri Lanka to have sex with girls and even boys. The poor Priya is a victim of it for money

Chandani Lokuge's other novel *Softly As I Leave You* sets in Australia and Sri Lanka. It narrates the story of Arjun the beloved son of Female protagonist Uma is killed by thugs. It revolves the benefits and disadvantages of exchanging one native culture to another. It also deals about different themes of diaspora.In different ways Uma and Chris's marriage embodies the failure of adult relationships burdened by the silences and misunderstandings resulting from diverse backgrounds and life histories. Uma's overdetermined race, gender and immigrant status have made her relationship with her husband as an unfulfilled wife with her relationship as mother to her son as an obsessive mother and her relationship with her parents as a guilty and resentful daughter.

The other novel *If the Moon Smiled* tells the story of Manthri, whose charmed girlhood in Sri Lanka comes to an abrupt end with her marriage to Mahendra. Manthri's life is changed irrevocably by the tragedy of her wedding night, an injustice to which she appears resigned. Although she never loses her ability to derive joy from memories and possibilities, her bravest thoughts remain unspoken. The novel explains how the relations are used for selfish motivations. The novel is of woman centric, where we come across miserable condition of Mantri, she strives

hard to maintain relations but Mahendra represents himself as a male dominated but he fails to prove. Mantri's life is victimized in the circumstances of time and relation.

Monica Ali

Monica Ali is from Bangladesh Diaspora, her novel *Brick Lane* narrates the life of an immigrant Nazneen who goes to live at Tower Hamlets, in Brick Lane area of London where Bangladeshis live in ghettos. Nazneen is sixteen, but her husband Chanu is forty. Nazneen is not happy with her husband. Their relationship has intricacies. She is always thinking as alien in the new environment and longs for her homeland. She feels nostalgia through the letters of her sister Hasina, living in Bangladesh. Meanwhile Karim enters into the life of Nazneen as he helps her in her work. She has extra-marital relationship with him. Later Chanu decides to go back to Dhaka alone and Nazneen lives with Karim. Later she lives in London with her two daughters with other Bangladeshi women. Hasina, the sister of Nazneen, has fallen in love with a person and continued her life with him. Ali delineates the life of people in both Bangladesh and London. Bangladeshi immigrants help other people from the homeland but they feel marginalized in the white dominated London. Nazneen and Karim try to get adjusted in an alien culture but Chanu continuously longs for homeland, Dhaka. Ali has thus depicted how women have broken their relationship and create new relationship in the patriarchal system in homeland as well as in host land. Ali has depicted the relationship of sisters. I also see the good relationship of Nazneen with her father,so she has been accepted the traditional arranged marriage with Chanu.

Amulya Malladi

Amulya Malladi was born in 1974 in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. She pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Electronics Engineering from Osmania University, After Master Degree in Journalism from the University of Memphis, she then moved on to working as an online editor for a high-tech publishing house in San Francisco. After living in the United States for many years, Malladi shifted base to Copenhagen, Denmark with her husband Soren Rasmussen and her two sons.

Malladi's novel *The Mango Season* narrates the story of modern woman's anguish over her inability to blend her two worlds. The parents of Priya are living in abroad, but they want to marry her daughter with Indian boy. Priya has observed the Indian lifestyle and atmosphere and has already fallen in love with Nick, an American boy, so she does n't want to like marry wih Indian boy who was arranged by her parents. Priya loves her parents so much,so she does n't

reject her parents wish. She is in dilemma. Finally she has married Nick. Thus we see love and hate relationship of Priya about her parents. Her good parents relationship and so on.

The other novel *Serving Crazy with Curry* is a transcontinental family saga about a young Indian to California who slowly rebuilds her life after a failed suicide attempt. Poor Devi has come to the conclusion that she's a failure an unendurable thought for the daughter of overachievers. Born in India to a socially prominent family, Devi came to America as a girl when her father, Avi, founded a technology firm that prospered and grew into one of the earliest successes of Silicon Valley. Devi's sister Shobha is the vice president of an engineering firm, and Shobha has married Girish who is a professor at Stanford. Devi's mother, Saroj, is a traditional Indian wife and mother, but even she grew up in an atmosphere of success as the daughter of an Indian Army brigadier. So the expectations for Devi are pretty high, which makes good odds for failure. And she flunks the test with flying colors. To begin with, she is unmarried and has just ended an affair with a married man. She has lost a baby that no one knows about. Devi then returned to her parents' for observation and recovery. Saroj broods over her daughter and begins for the first time to question her own fate as well: an introspection that leads to some unusual developments, as does the revelation of Devi's miscarriage. Things were so much easier back in India. Thus we see devi's relationship with her family members.

Bharti Kirchner

Bharti Kirchner is an Indian American novelist. Before she has become an author, she has worked as systems engineer for IBM in San Francisco. She has also worked in Europe and other continents as a computer systems consultant. She has written novels and other works. Her novel *Shiva Dancing* takes us from the arid desert plains of Northern India to the bustle and charm of San Francisco to modern-day Calcutta as a spirited woman seeks to reconnect with her past. Meena Kumari is seven years old and about to marry her best friend, Vishnu Rathan, according to the ancient custom of child marriage when she is abducted from her village in the northwest of India. Although she manages to escape the kidnappers, she does not return to the world she knows. Now, on the eve of her thirty-fifth birthday, Meena has begun to question her fast-track life as a systems manager in San Francisco, the city she had called home for the last twenty-eight years. Her adoptive mother has died, and feeling lonely and homesick, Meena resolves to return to her roots and reclaim her cultural heritage. It is a quest complicated by her relationship with

San Francisco novelist Antoine Peterson and by the path she has chosen – one that will lead her to her lost love. Though Meena returns to India and manages to reunite with Vishnu, she discovers her true identity there.

Bharti Kirchner's other novel Darjeeling set in the mountainous tea plantations of Darjeeling, India and in New York City. It is the story of two sisters – Aloka and Sujata – long separated by their love for Pranab, an idealistic young revolutionary. Pranab loves Sujata, the awkward, prickly, younger sister but, out of obligation, marries Aloka, the gracious, beautiful, older sister. When all of their secrets are revealed, the three are forced to leave Darjeeling. Aloka and Pranab flee to New York City and Sujata to Canada. The story opens ten years later, when Aloka and Sujata's grandmother summons everyone home to the family tea plantation to celebrate her birthday. Despite the fact that Aloka is still very much in love with Pranab, they are in the process of getting a divorce. Sujata, who is still single, runs a successful business importing tea, a business that doesn't fill her broken heart. This trip forces the sisters to wrestle with their bitterness and anger and to try to heal old wounds. What complicate matter is that Pranab, too, is going to India and is intent on rekindling his relationship with Sujata now that his marriage is over. The novel is really about the universally human emotions of jealousy, rivalry, love, and honor. It is a complex novel about family, exile, sisterly relations, and how one incident can haunt us for the rest of our lives.

Chapter 5: Conclusion

This research proposal makes an attempt to analyze how human relationships have undergone between Mala and Simon before their marriage, Mohan has extra marital relationship with Mala and Mala has relationship with a few men. Aruni has relationship with many men and with Paul is an interesting aspect. The relationships between Mantri and Mahendra ,Uma and Chris .The relationship between Nazneen and Chanu, Nazneen and Karim and Hasina with her lover also throws light on man woman relationship. In Amulya malladi's novels the relationship has seen between Priya and Nick and her relationship with her family. The relationship between Devi and Girish and her relationship with family members. In kirchner's novels we see relationships of Meena with her lover and Antoine Peterson and Aloka and Sujatha's sisterly relationship and Aloka and Pranab's married relationship. Thus human relationship has happened in various types i.e. man and woman, woman and woman, brother and sister..In man and woman relationships we have seen premarital and extra marital relationship. But at present it is happened due to other reasons like dislocation, displacement, acculturation, racism, security of life and so on.

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http://www.palgrave.com.

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